

629 D Street, NW (Commercial Building)(Lot 944)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-308

HABS
DC,
WASH,
343-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

STATE District of Columbia		COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HABITAT NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 529 D Street, NW (Commercial Building)			HABS NO. DC-308
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1850		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) In the 1880's, the arcaded facade with cast-iron hoodmolds was added. The building, which also features a cast-iron storefront, housed Charles H. Cecil & Co., "tailor's trimmings," from 1898-1918, a use appropriate to this garment district.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with cast-iron shop front			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 3-story; 2-bay front; flat roof			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Bracketed cornice; arcaded facade; brick window hoods with floral drops; cast-iron storefront			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1880's: present facade added			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE In 1967, condition appeared good.			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Don't Tear It Down's Downtown Survey. Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u>			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION			DATE

Addendum to:

629 D Street, NW
(Central Armature Works)
Washington
District of Columbia

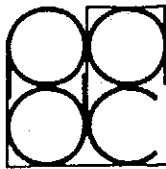
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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

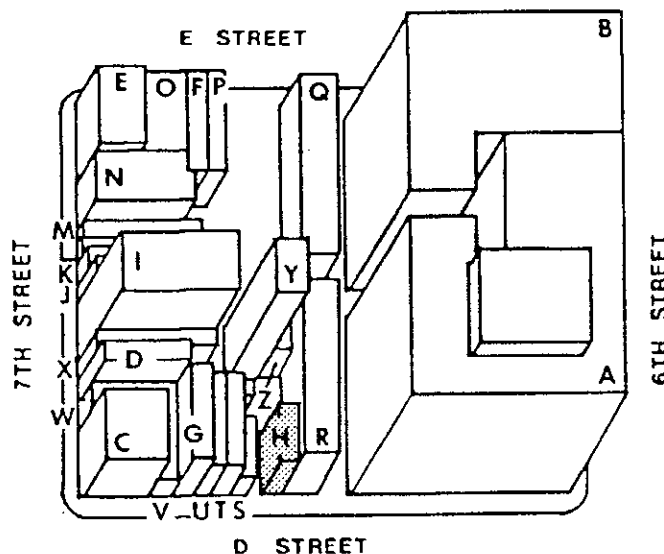
ANDERSON NOTTER / MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID MCCLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Addendum to:
629 D STREET, NW
(Central Armature Works)
HABS No. DC-308 (Page 2)

HABS
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629 D Street, NW
(Central Armature Works)
Lot 864



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 457, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 457, see HABS No. DC-597.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Central Armature Works was the first of what would develop into a complex of several contiguous structures collectively bearing that name. The original building occupies the south end of a compact rectangular site midway between Sixth and Seventh Streets in the row of two to four story Nineteenth Century structures which define the west end of the north side of this block of D Street. This three-story flat roofed brick building adjoins a later factory to the east, while to the west lies a narrow parking lot. The building's facade is executed in the North Italian Renaissance Revival style and combines both cast iron and wood ornamentation. The rectangular plan building once contained two floors of apartments above the ground floor shop. The south facing building measures approximately twenty feet along D Street; the three-story portion extends back fifty feet from the sidewalk, with a one-story section extending an additional eleven feet. Wood joists span transversely between the brick bearing side walls. The load of the upper brick facade is transferred to two cast iron columns at ground level, thus allowing a transparent, delicately detailed display and entry area. A heavy, elaborately bracketed wood cornice crowns the building.

The ground floor electrical shop consists of a single large open room. A stair along the west wall provides access to the upper floors of living quarters, which were apparently an early alteration to the original open plan arrangement. A central skylit well once provided natural light to the inner rooms of these quarters. The walls have since largely been removed, although the framing of the well remains. Surviving ceilings throughout the building are of pressed metal in a variety of patterns over earlier plaster ceilings.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Central Armature Works presents a noteworthy and rare example of a cast iron storefront assembly. This storefront apparently dates from 1877, when a new ground floor was constructed (Building Permit No. 112, 12/13/1877). The position of the show windows was altered in 1895 (Building Permit No. 596, 10/8/1895). The storefront has remained virtually intact since that time.

The well-detailed and proportioned facade, with its symmetry, bold bracketed cornice, arched windows and rich layering of the wall surface, constitutes one of the finer examples of North Italian Renaissance Revival Style in the district and Washington. The light well and partition framing are graphic reminders of the

rooming houses which once commonly occupied the upper floors of the city's small commercial buildings. The Central Armature Works, with its distinctive facade treatment, reinforces and visually enriches the row of buildings which line this section of D Street.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facade: This building illustrates the accommodation of differing scales upon a single building. Through the use of the two story piers a large single story scale order is superimposed upon the two smaller windowed floor divisions. Similarly, the two-bay arrangement of the upper stories is superimposed upon the still smaller human scale of the triple division created by the ground floor columns and display windows. The facade thus functions in two ways: as a large scale composition that can be read from a distance and also as a smaller scaled one intended for more proximal window shopping at street level. The deep projecting wooden denticulated cornice is supported by ornate oversized wooden consoles affixed at the piers. The flat brick piers form arches which frame the round arched windows and semi-circular window hoods. The red brick is presently painted a mustard color. The flat section of wall above the cornice was added in 1904, when a new roof was added above the old one (Building Permit No. 1868, 5/14/1904).

The display windows and entrances have been shifted off-center to the east by the position at the west end of the facade of the door leading to the upper floors. The projecting independently roofed display windows form a small pavilion within the larger recess of the ground floor. Fascia, cornice, pilasters and columns are cast iron. The pilasters at each end wall contain relief bullseyes and moldings. Ornamental panels enrich the piers. The bases beneath the display windows are marble clad. The display window assembly is contained under a flat roof that is lower than, and independent of, the building above. Clerestory windows fill the space between the display roof and the first floor soffit, increasing the transparency of the ground level facade and reinforcing the lightweight qualities of the ironwork.

Interior: The second and third floors each contained four rooms, with the inner rooms being lit by the central two-story skylit well. Windows opened onto the well, lighting the otherwise dark interior. Only the well remains at the third level; the second floor retains the wall framing defining the rooms.

Pressed metal ceilings with metal egg and dart moldings were used throughout the building, although those on the upper floors have been largely removed. The first floor ceiling contains several different pressed metal patterns, some of which form a series of borders around the edge of the room. The iron door hinges are scrolled.

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D STREET (SOUTH) FACADE

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SOUTH FACADE: DETAIL OF
CONSOLE ON STOREFRONT



SOUTH FACADE: STOREFRONT



SOUTH FACADE:
TYPICAL WINDOW



SOUTH FACADE: CENTRAL
BRACKET SUPPORTING CORNICE

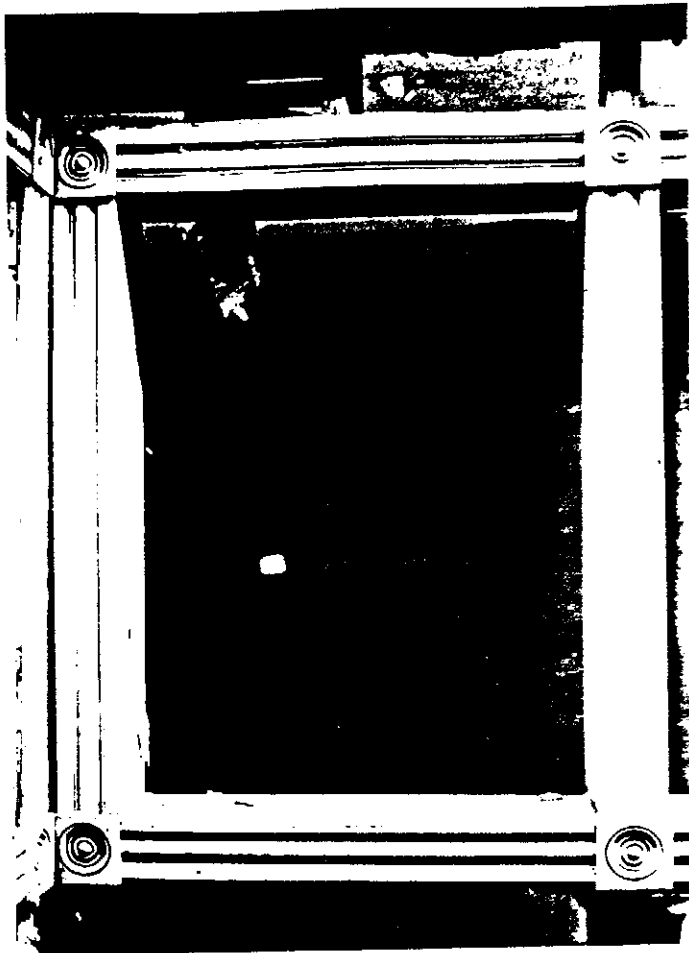
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SKYLIGHT ABOVE CENTRAL
LIGHT SHAFT (VERTICAL
PLANKS COVER VOID
BETWEEN TWO ROOFS)



CENTRAL LIGHT SHAFT



WOODWORK OF
CENTRAL LIGHT SHAFT



SECOND FLOOR: SOUTH-FACING ROOM

Lot 5
625-629 D Street

When originally platted (1872, Bastert), Lot 5 was a slender rectangular Lot located in a low, central area of the Square. It was bordered on the east and north by narrow public alleys.

1819.....G. Bumford owned the lot. No land value was recorded.

After this date in the Tax Assessment Records the lot was subdivided into numerous properties, individually listed.

Lot 5 Central-(Sublots 32, 851)
627 D Street

The central section of original Lot 5 was a slender rectangular lot with a 19.10½' D Street frontage.

1824.....The lot owner was Charles Lyons. The lot was valued at \$376.00. The building improvement assessment was \$900.00.

1829/33..Hannah Allen assumed ownership of the land. \$744.00 was the lot assessment, \$1,000.00 was the assessed building improvement sum.

1844.....Allen's lot value was \$745.00.

1855.....A. Bassett, a saddler, was an early tenant at 410 D Street (Pre-1870 address).

1859.....Hannah Allen's lot assessment had increased substantially to \$3352.00.

1870.....The Tax Assessment Records listed the "Owen's Estate" as titled the property. The value of improvements was \$1,200.00. No lot assessment was given.

1875
to

1880.....Tenants at 627 D Street included Mrs. A.G. Gaston, millinery/notions; F. Hahn & Co., cloths/cassimeres; Losano and McIntosh, tailors; and Carruthers & Co., gents and ladies furnishings.

1878/79..The Tax Records indicated the lot had become No. 32. Joseph H. Heinlein was assessed \$3015.00 for the land.

1883/84..Heinlein's lot value had risen to \$3618.00.

1885
to

1887.....The Directories listed Jason T. McIntosh, a tailor, at 627 D Street.

1893/94..Now owned by Walter C. Johnson, the lot was valued at \$4201.00 while the improvement value was \$3000.00.

1899/

1900.....Johnson's title was transferred to J. Forrest Manning. \$3618.00 was the land value, and \$2300.00 was the improvement assessment.

1901

to

1904.....Philip and Anna Yudelevit, clothiers, were located at this address.

1905.....Until 1926 Simon Goldberg had a clothing shop in the building. Co-tenants during this period were Joseph Schaeffer, John H. Sotos, G.H. Jarbol and Mrs. Sarah Grossman. All owned clothing stores at 627 D Street.

1926.....Building Permit #3170, 9/30/1926: Permit to raze three brick buildings, two front, one rear. Owner: Central Armature Works. Builder: B. Wright.

Building Permit #4095, 10/27/1926: Build one three-story concrete factory building. Cost: \$40,000.00.

1927

to

1956.....The Central Armature Works, Inc. was listed as tenant of 625-627 D Street (City Directories).

1939.....The Baist Plat Map indicated the removal of the partition wall separating 625 and 627 D Street. The lot was named No 851.

1981.....The Central Armature Works is established at this address.

Lot 5 West (Sublots P, 864)
629 D Street

Lot P of original Lot 5 had a 19.11½' O Street frontage. A narrow alley lies to the west for parking.

1824.....Thomas Lloyd owned the lot. The assessment was \$564.00 for the land, \$800.00 for building improvements.

1829/33
and

1844.....Lloyd's lot value was \$750.00; the improvement value was \$1100.00.

1859.....John Tretler was the owner of Lot P. \$3090.00 was the assessed value of the land.

1862
to

1864.....Tretler was listed in the Oirectories as being a bookbinder at 408 O Street (408 was the pre-1870 address of this lot).

1870.....Tretler's title was transferred to Samuel Phillips. The building improvement value was \$2500.00. No lot assessment was recorded this year in the Tax Records.

1873.....A restaurant/saloon was owned by Rudolph Peterson at 629 O Street. The establishment reappeared in the Oirectories in 1877 and 1878.

1877.....Building Permit #112, 12/13/1877: Permit to put in new ground floor, new ceilings and flashing for one brick building. Cost: \$900.00.

1878/79..The Tax Assessment Records indicated formally the lot was named Lot 9. Samuel O. Phillips' lot was assessed \$3015.00.

1879
to

1884Philip Hunke1 owned a cloths/cassimeres shop, privately and in partnership.

1883/84..Phillips' lot increased in value to \$3618.00.

1885
to

1897.....The Quast family, Henry and Frank, owned a cloths/cassimeres store at this address. (City Directories)

1885.....Building Permit #1529, 4/22/1885: Permit to repair one brick building with tin roof; occupied as a store and dwelling. Repairs include: One frame bathroom (8' x 8') in rear and new roof covered with tin.

1893/94..The lot assessment was \$4201.00 and the improvement value was \$3000.00. The owner was still Samuel Phillips.

1895.....Building Permit #596, 10/8/1895: Permit to make repairs by changing the position of show windows without increasing the projection; minor interior repairs. Cost: \$700.00.

1899/

1900.....Phillips' lot assessment returned to the 1883/84 figure of \$3618.00. The improvement value was \$2500.00. A photographer, Arthur Pack, occupied the building in 1900. (City Directories)

1904.....Building Permit #1868, 5/14/1904: Permit to alter roof by raising brick walls 2'-5" in the front and 14" in the rear; the skylight to be raised, too. New tin roof. Building was 20' x 60', three stories, flat roof, occupied as a store and dwelling. Cost: \$200.00.

1911.....Mackenzie Brothers, hats/caps/furs dealers, were located at 629 O Street.

1916
to

1930.....Mrs. Sarah Grossman appeared as a tenant in the building. Between 1916 and 1922 Jacob Waskow was another occupant.

1919

to

1922.....Herman Friedman was a tenant at 629 D Street. He reappeared in the Directories in 1928.

1933

to

1943.....A second-hand clothing store was owned by Louis Sklar at this address.

1935

to

1940.....Jason W. and William Minder, Richard Worrell, Elliot Brown and Mrs. Madeline Rochard were listed in the Directories during this time.

1948.....Mrs. Minnie Sklar owned a luggage store at 629 D Street.

1954.....The City Directories listed 625-631 D Street as the Central Armature Works, Inc. building.

1956

to

1967.....There were no listings in the City Directories for 629 D Street.

1974.....Lot P was renamed No. 864 according to the PADC Property Map.

1981.....The Central Armature Works still owns the building.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map

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